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**Title : REMARKS AT THEBOOK LAUNCHING OF"MAHATHIR: THE SECRET OF THE MALAYSIAN SUCCESS"**

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank Ambassador Hajrudin for his kind remarks. I am indeed happy that he had chosen Wisma Putra as the venue for the launching of his book. I also would like to welcome all the guests for taking the time to be here this morning.

2. Numerous books have been written by various authors paying tribute to Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia for his contribution not only to the political and economic success of Malaysia but also to the world at large. His Excellency Hajrudin Somun, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Malaysia book entitled, "Mahathir: The Secret of The Malaysian Success" had made it to the top-selling book and to-10 list in the MPH Bookstores. I would like to congratulate him for this achievement.

3. Tun Dr. Mahathir is no stranger to Bosnians. His advocacy of justice, peace and humanity has moved him to voice his views against the injustice and atrocities that had been committed on the Bosnians. The former President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic had recognized Tun's contribution and said that there were five most prominent friends, statesmen and leaders who had helped Bosnia the most during the war, and Tun Dr. Mahathir was one of them, Tun Dr. Mahathir was the only one who did not have any strategic or national interest in assisting Bosnia. In fact, as Ambassador Somun had rightly mentioned in his book that Malaysia's contribution and assistance in the post-war reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to hundreds of millions of US dollars. Malaysia does not expect any returns. We do it out of humanitarian and brotherhood consideration.

4. I am indeed very glad that the book "Mahathir: The Secret of The Malaysian Success" was Ambassador Somun's way of honoring Tun Dr. Mahathir for his tenacious defence of Bosnian Muslims against the genocide and ethnic cleansing committed on them between 1992 and 1995. It speaks well of Malaysia's efforts in helping to bring a lasting peace and stability in the Balkans in general and Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular.

5. I must commend Ambassador Somun's analytical and honest approach to examine and illustrate the secret behind Malaysia's success as a model of economic and social development and Tun Dr. Mahathir's role as an initiator of change. His intellectual

acumen and insight understanding of Malaysian affairs as a career diplomat has enabled him making simple the most complex issues that exist in a multiracial society like Malaysia.

6. Ambassador Somun in a plain and layman language, expounded further the concept of "Mahathirism" - a term referring to Tun Dr. Mahathir's thoughts and ideology. He has discussed and elaborated in detail Tun Dr. Mahathir's economic, political and social policies in turning Malaysia from an agricultural based economy into an industrialised nation.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

7. The book, "Mahathir: The Secret of The Malaysian Success" can be an excellent reference and literature. Ambassador Somun has done remarkably well in giving clear evidence of his interdisciplinary diplomatic and journalistic skills to describe the totality of Tun Dr. Mahathir's political career as well as his success and achievement in leading Malaysia to the present level of development. This book is not only significant to Malaysian readers as such but also ought to be cherished by Bosnian readers as they will be able to understand better the "Mahathirism" in creating a vision of development and in the nation building process for the political, economic and social transformation of the multiethnic society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

8. Once again, I would like to underline that Ambassador Somun has done an outstanding job in writing this book amidst his busy schedule engaging in his diplomatic duties to enhance bilateral relations between Malaysia and Bosnia. With this book, he has obviously contributed towards cementing further understanding between the people of our two countries.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

9. I would like to urge those of you who have not picked up a copy to do so. I am sure that Ambassador Somun and Pelanduk Publications would be more than happy to provide the book at a discounted price.

10. And with those words and lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I have the pleasure to officially launch the book "Mahathir: The Secret of The Malaysian Success".

Thank you.